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CHILE: The government continues to use pre-emptive force to forestall the violent opposition it anticipates from the left. It apparently is less concerned about the economic recovery program's impact on the working class--n potentially more serious threat.

Opposition activity appears to be picking up somewhat in the countryside and intercepted military communications indicate that a special counterguerrilla brigade has launched an operation in the south. The national police reportedly have reassumed primary responsibility for maintaining public order, freeing the armed forces to concentrate on training in counter-insurgency tactics.

Some progress toward the formation of a new anti-government organization [REDACTED] but the left is not yet ready to begin a coordinated guerrilla-terrorist campaign. The apparent existence of uncoordinated fronts and commands suggests that much organizational work remains. Opposition groups in Santiago [REDACTED] are warning their members to beware of an alleged government plan to trap unwary leftists by having a phoney clandestine radio station issue a call to take to the streets and fight.

The most radical leftist groups probably remain anxious to take up arms, but not all components of the former Popular Unity coalition are convinced that violence is the best tool with which to confront the government. Some groups appear to believe that fomenting strikes among workers disgruntled by the growing gap between wages and prices would be more productive.

The left's present ability to mobilize the working class is as questionable as its readiness for guerrilla warfare, but the regime publicly admits that there will be no early end to the economic squeeze. Moreover, there are indications of rising unemployment. Should workers come to believe that they are making all the 'sacrifices, resentment could lead to strikes even though leftist organizers have been removed from their factory jobs. Widespread strikes pose a potentially greater threat to the government than bands of rural guerrillas or urban terrorists. [REDACTED]

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